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# NOVI NEWS

online at hometownlife.com



Novi's Chris Bellamy leads strong All-Area basketball squad Sports, B1

## The cost of a Novi Signature Park

This is the third installment in a series of stories leading up to the May 5 election.

BY KELLY MURAD  
STAFF WRITER

Each individual, family and business handles finances in a different manner. And no matter the differences, it's safe to say people, whether risky or conservative with their investments, want to know the short- and long-term financial impact.

On May 5, Novi voters will head to the polls making a financial decision

to either support or oppose the .5 mill increase to the parks, recreation and forestry levy, for the development of a Signature Park.

### MILLAGE PROPOSAL

The proposal for a Signature Park, located on 73 acres on the southwest corner of 11 Mile and Beck roads, is the result of a land swap agreement with the Novi Community Schools district.

"The total value of Signature Park is \$23.4 million, in exchange for only having to pay \$15 million," said

Mayor David Landry, noting the land is worth \$8.4 million.

City officials estimate the 25-year limited millage proposal will translate to an increase of about \$75 a year for Novi residents with a \$300,000 market value home.

### RECOVERING COSTS

The proposed millage is expected to cover costs of building, operating and maintaining the Signature Park.

"I never talk in terms as if it doesn't matter, whether it's 75 cents or \$75," said Novi resident and former councilwoman Laura Lorenzo. "My biggest concern is that the cost won't pay for itself and that it will possibly require more taxes to continue operations in the future."

Sheryl Walsh, director of communications for the City of Novi, said another millage is not planned.

The consultants hired by the city to develop conceptual plans and a feasibility study for such a park, warn that community based multigenerational recreation facilities normally only

Please see PARK, A6

## NOVI NUTSHELL

### Road work

Ramps from both directions of Novi Road to eastbound I-96 are closed through late October. The closure is part of a \$59 million



bridge and pavement rehabilitation project on I-96 and I-696 in Oakland County. Crews will resurface nearly four miles of I-96 in the City, resulting in the ramp

shutdowns. Travelers should also be aware I-696 is scheduled to close in both directions between M-5 and Telegraph Road April 17-20 for the Halsted bridge demolition.

### Open house

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) will celebrate nearly 48 years of service to Michigan during a 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. open house at the chapter headquarters, 40550 Grand River Avenue in Novi. For more information, contact Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000.

### District forum

A community forum is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at the Instructional Technology Center to provide information and gather



input on the proposed Novi High School Six-Period-Day Schedule and to answer questions regarding the proposed

schedule. All stakeholders, including students, parents and staff are invited to attend.

### City budget

The first Novi City Council budget work session will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday in council chambers at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. The second session will take place 9 a.m. Saturday, April 25. Both sessions are open to the public.

### Guernsey

Guernsey Farms Dairy will open its doors to the public for a tour of its dairy products production plant 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 25. The tour is free, and guests are asked to bring a nonperishable food item or make a monetary donation to the Novi Food Pantries. For more information, call Guernsey at (248) 349-1466 or visit [www.guernsey-farmsdairy.com](http://www.guernsey-farmsdairy.com).



Novi Northville Montessori Center instructor Raji Bhagwat talks to Avneet Gill during a recent Friday morning lesson. The classroom's 4- and 5-year-old students were busy working on puzzles and quizzes.

## An educational accomplishment

Montessori Center celebrates 25 years

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL  
STAFF WRITER

When Geetha Rao stepped onto American soil, she never believed she would be afforded the chance to foster a loving business approaching 25 years in the Novi community.

"I am so proud to be a citizen," Rao said. "I'm so thankful and so loyal, and I'm so grateful they gave me this opportunity."

"It's such a reward to see this."

Rao, and her husband Keshav Rao, opened the Novi Northville Montessori Center 25 years ago with the dream of bringing their familiar educational model to the community.

The center is a private preschool, kindergarten and day care program modeled after the educational style prevalent in India.

The couple has been in the current Novi Road location for 20 years after spending their first five years of business in the First United Methodist Church of Northville.

"We've been in business for 25 years and our strength is our staff," Rao said.

Rao said most Montessori staff members have been with the school for 20 years, which is a testament to the quality of the center.

All of her educators, called directresses, have formal Montessori training and are certified teachers.

Directress Nita Maley has been a center staple, educating children for years.

"I think it is in my genes because my mom was in her training when I was a baby," Maley said. "I'm very impressed with Montessori."

### HOME AWAY FROM HOME

To walk through the doors of the intimate educa-

Please see MONTESSORI, A6

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## Novi district faces \$3 million in budget cuts; public input desired

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL  
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Novi community are invited to attend three public meetings beginning next week



Dion

to discuss the fallout of school board recommendations the district cut \$3 million from its upcoming budget. School officials said they will compile their budget cuts and enhancements no later than tomorrow, followed by the public input sessions.

The first opportunity will

### NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS

- NHS six-period schedule community forum: 7 p.m. April 20
- Regular board meeting: 7 p.m. April 23
- Budget community forum: 7 p.m. April 30

All meetings will take place in the ITC Building, 25345 Taft Road.

take place 7 p.m. April 23 at the regularly scheduled Novi school board meeting, followed by the invitation to attend a budget community forum 7 p.m. April 30.

Superintendent Peter Dion

Please see BUDGET, A8

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The Novi Fire Department responds to a roll-over two-car accident on Novi Road south of 13 Mile road on Monday, April 14.

## Neighbors protect 54 acres of natural Novi

BY KELLY MORAD  
STAFF WRITER

What started as a grassroots effort among Novi residents about four years ago led to the preservation of 54 acres of land along Meadowbrook Road, between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads.

It's a success story for Novi, said Councilman Andrew Mutch, who has been involved with the project since the beginning.

Last month, city officials closed the deal on two pieces of property, east and west of Meadowbrook Road, which were acquired through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant.

"This is a natural setting and we don't want it to become an overdeveloped piece of property," Mutch said. "We can't change the use of the property without approval from the trust fund board, and if the city tried to sell the property we'd have to pay the state back the entire amount of the grant."

After the city approved plans in 2005 for property owner William Roskelly to build a residential development on 16 acres of natural land on the east side of Meadowbrook Road, a group of citizens in favor of preserving the property came together.

"Residents came out and said they didn't want to see it developed," Mutch said. "It was very emotional for a lot of residents. It affected them directly."

More than 350 residents signed a petition in support of preserving the property, and an effort was organized, requesting the city to submit a grant application to the state board to fund the acquisition of the property.

"We had 30 days to write the grant and pull together everything we needed to pull

together," said Mutch, who was serving as president of Friends of Novi Parks. "It really was a huge accomplishment because so much of it came together so quickly, and it was all grassroots efforts to protect the property."

Along with the grant application, Novi resident LuAnne Kozma produced a video to submit to the MNRTF board, highlighting the natural features of the properties, which include a portion of the Rouge River, regulated woodlands, wetlands and lakes.

"The board loved it," Mutch said. "They may see like 100 projects, so we had to make our one project stand out from all the others."

The city was awarded the state grant in December 2005, which covers 75 percent of the cost, requiring the city to fund the remaining 25 percent through a local match.

"The local match can actually be dollars or the value or land," Mutch said. And local developer Claudio Rossi, of Mirage Development, offered to donate 36 acres of land in Orchard Hills subdivision, west of Meadowbrook Road, to assist with the local match.

"It took a lot of people helping out to make this successful," Mutch said. "At any time, either one of these property owners could have walked away, but they stuck with us for four years."

The city appropriated about \$53,000 toward the local match.

"We got 54 acres for essentially \$50,000, that's a pretty good outcome," Mutch said. "I would have loved to see this wrapped up two years ago, but at the end of the day, the city owns those two pieces of property now that are protected forever. Those were the last two pieces of undeveloped property in southeast Novi."

kmurad@gannett.com | (248) 349-1700, Ext. 263

### Stealing Jesus, not so Holy

A framed Jesus print, zebra figurine and package of collectible pennies were stolen from a vehicle on Willsie Court, near Pontiac Trail and West Park Drive, reports said.

According to the complainant, the items were in the backseat of her vehicle between 3 p.m. March 25 and 4 p.m. April 5.

There was no damage to the vehicle, and the woman said she normally locks it, but finds it difficult to tell when it locks because the lights flash when it locks and unlocks.

In total, the missing items are worth about \$300, reports said.

### Missing tires

A set of tires was stolen from a black Ford Fusion, while parked on Strawberry Court, near Nine Mile and Haggerty roads, between 11 p.m. April 5 and 11 a.m. April 6, reports said.

According to the complainant, the vehicle was found resting on two blocks under the carport outside the Pavilion Court apartment.

The 18-inch wheels, valued at about \$100 each, and the Goodyear Eagle tires, valued at about \$400 each, were all missing, reports said.

There was no other damage observed to the vehicle.

### Former resident suspected of damage

Two vehicles were damaged between 9 p.m. April 4 and 7 a.m. April 5, while parked on

Ocher Street, near 12 Mile and Napier roads, reports said.

The vehicles were parked in the driveway of a residence.

A blue Dodge Durango was found with a hole in the right rear panel window, and the rear window of a black Chevy Trailblazer was smashed out.

The seven-foot storm door was missing from the home, and broken glass was found on the wooden deck.

According to the complainant, the possible suspect was living there one week prior.

### Skateboard ramp damaged

A bike and skateboard ramp in the driveway of a residence on Willingham Drive, near 10 Mile and Taft roads, was damaged at about 2:30 a.m. April 4, reports said.

While investigating a similar complaint in the area, officers found the ramp damaged and a for sale sign removed from the front yard. The sign was later found inside a basketball hoop.

Officers checked the area, but were unable to locate the responsible subjects, reports said.

### Too much wine

Officers were dispatched to 4000 Financial Showplace during the Michigan International Wine Expo at about 5 p.m. April 3, reports said.

According to reports, a man was removed from the building and wandering through the parking lot.

An officer observed the driver of a purple Chevy Blazer slumped over while stopped at

the light at Grand River Avenue and Beck Road, reports said.

As the light turned green, the driver raised his head and drove through the intersection.

The officer followed the suspect vehicle and observed the driver almost rear-end a vehicle in front of him and weave in the lane.

A traffic stop was initiated at the Mobil gas station at Grand River Avenue and Wixom Road, and police smelled an odor of intoxicants as they approached the driver, reports said.

A preliminary breath test registered the man's blood alcohol concentration at .23 percent.

The man was arrested for operating while intoxicated and transported to the Novi Police Department, where he refused the breath test. A warrant to do a blood draw was received and the man was transported to Providence Park Hospital, where he told the nurse to "bring on the fight."

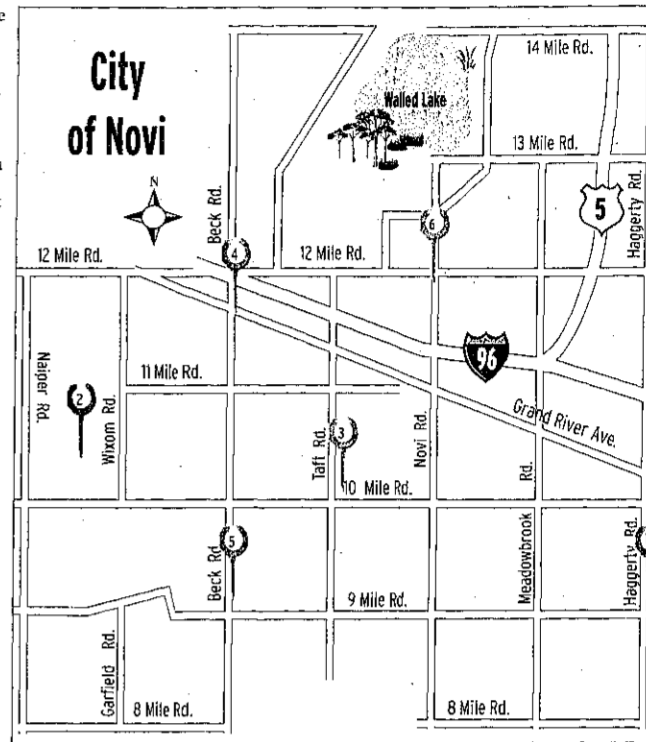
### Laptop stolen

A vehicle parked in the driveway of a residence on Halifax Lane, near Nine Mile and Beck roads, was broken into between 9:30 p.m. April 2 and 6:30 a.m. April 3, reports said.

A black leather briefcase, which contained a passport, travel visas, Dell laptop, iPod touch, three network cards and an electric razor, was missing from the backseat of the vehicle.

The unknown suspect broke the window, without setting off the alarm or unlocking the vehicle, reports said.

### POLICE BRIEFS



### Drunken driver backs into parked car

Officers handling a fight in the parking lot of Buffalo Wild Wings in Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, near 12 Mile and Novi roads, observed a driver hit a parked car at

about 11:30 p.m. April 4, reports said.

Police saw the driver of a silver Ford Escape, get out of her vehicle to examine the damage of the parked vehicle she backed into.

While approaching the driver, the officer noticed an odor of intoxicants, reports

said.

The woman said she turned down the aisle then realized it was blocked by police cars. As she reversed, she accidentally hit the parked car, reports said.

A preliminary breath test registered her blood alcohol concentration at .11 percent.

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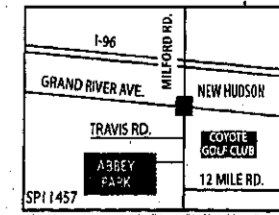
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NOVI BRIEFLY

Road construction

Northbound and southbound Novi Road entrance ramps to eastbound Interstate 96 were expected to close Tuesday night, until late October. Also expected were eastbound I-96 traffic lane shifts to the inside median shoulder, maintaining three lanes from Beck Road to the I-96/M-7/425 interchange.

Job seekers workshop and health fairs

The Novi Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Chamber are hosting a Job Seekers Workshop and Health Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25 at the Novi Civic Center, located at 45175 W. 10 Mile Road.

Oakland County Economic Luncheon

Top economists from the University of Michigan will present their report on the economic future of Oakland County at the 24th annual Economic Outlook Luncheon on Thursday, April 30 at the Lock Financial Showplace. The cost for the luncheon, scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. is \$40 per person.

Health fair participants include the Oakland County Health Department, Sports Club of Novi, St. Mary's Health Group and the dental van with services for kids and adults.

Employment and the Economy at the University of Michigan, will present the 2009-11 Employment Forecast for the county, which includes forecasts for total employment in private manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors with breakdowns for various industry categories.

Java and Jazz Jam with the Tony Lammen Trio

Biggy Coffee at Grand River Avenue and Novi Road is hosting the Java and Jazz Jam series Wednesday, April 30. Doors open at 9:15 p.m. with music beginning at 9:30 p.m. A \$5 music donation will be collected at the door and drink specials will be offered throughout the night.

Meijer helps re-stock Hospitality House

Meijer is re-launching its Simply Give food donation program to help restock the shelves of local food pantries, including Hospitality House in Commerce Township, which serves Novi residents. The program, which runs through May 30, encourages Meijer shoppers to purchase a \$10 Food Pantry Donation Card found throughout the store, as well as inside Meijer gas stations and convenience stores.



PROPOSED SIGNATURE PARK SITE PLAN

- LEGEND
A. Boulevard Primary Entry
B. Fishing Dock/Pond Overlook
C. Expanded Pond
D. Cultural Plaza
E. Parking for 450
F. Senior and Barrier Free parking
G. Service Entry
H. Boulevard Secondary Entry
I. Event Plaza
J. Themed Fields for Sports/Festivals
K. Flexible Custom Play Equipment
L. Sculptural Plaza or Garden
M. Overhead Transitional Feature
N. Parking
O. Allée de Flags
P. Dog Park (4 ac.)
Q. Upland Meadow Hill
R. Marsh Viewing Shelter
S. Marsh Overlook
T. Treetops Walk
U. Trail Connection to County & Regional Trail Network
V. Peron Stairs

SOURCE: The City of Novi
The city is concerned with is operating the park beyond its fifth year. The city estimates less than \$13,000 in revenue over expenses.

PARK

FROM PAGE A1

recover costs in the area of 30-40 percent when including capital costs. "That's why we had to go with the millage," Landry said. "The .5 mill will generate 85 percent of the revenue needed to build it and operate it."

other things. "In comparison with similar facilities, such as Canton's Summit on the Park, Landry said Signature Park's recreation center was designed with more flexible space to trim cost and maximize revenue.

At an attempt to estimate beyond five years is just throwing darts, and there is never a 100 percent guarantee. "I think the city has been conservative in the economic estimates," he said, noting the five-year financial projections factor in the economy, estimating the city will recover 132 percent of its costs in operating year one, down to 101 percent in operating year

five. "These numbers aren't crashing and burning, they are leveling out. "All you can do is try to design the most creative, cost-effective design." STAFFING ASSUMPTIONS The proposed plans for Signature Park include the addition of one full-time employee, assuming the facility will share current staff from the parks and recreation department.

OBITUARIES

BRENDA L. BOYER
Of South Lyon, previously of Plymouth, passed away peacefully at her home after an extended illness on April 4, 2009. She was born March 26, 1949 to the late William A. Foreman and Northville, and the late Marguerite E. Fillmore, of Plymouth. Survived by her devoted husband of 50 years, Donald L. Boyer and loving mother to Donna (DeWayne) Mallett and Daniel (Stella) Boyer, all of South Lyon. Cherished grandmother to Deanna (Eric) Stephens of Whitmore Lake and Shannon Mallett of South Lyon, also great-grandson Trenton Stephens, Sister of Gail (Russell) Mecklenburg of Northville, Interment: Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens. Memorial Service will take place at Crossroads Community Church of South Lyon at a later date.

KENNETH C. CAMBRA
Age 66 of Northville, passed away peacefully at home April 11, 2009. A service was held last Wednesday at Casteline Funeral Home, Inc. Contributions to St. John's Children's Research Hospital appreciated.

DOUGLAS L. FAULKNER
Age 67 passed away April 10, 2009. He was born on July 21, 1941, to the late Louis and Edna (Garwood) Faulkner. He graduated from Farmington High School in 1960. On October 25, 1969, he married his wife Barbara Andrews. He was formerly of Farmington, prior to moving to South Lyon in 1978. He was a former South Lyon Electrical Inspector. He was member of the National Service Managers Association, and the Ham Radio Association South Lyon Chapter. Douglas is survived by his wife Barbara, brother, Nicholas (Lucy) Faulkner, sister-in-law Gail (Alan) McDonald, two nephews David and Mark McDonald. He was preceded in death by his brother Norman. Visitation was held on Tuesday from 3-5 p.m. A Funeral Service was held April 15, Wednesday, 11am at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to the Barbara Ann Karmann Leukemia Research. Online guest-book: www.phillipsfuneral.com

JOHN M. LLOYD
Known by many as "Jack Lloyd," age 94, passed away peacefully on April 12, 2009. He was born May 25, 1914 in Sharon, Pa. to John A. and Mary (Morrison) Lloyd. He was united in marriage to Jean Elizabeth Hazlett on April 28, 1941. His business career took him to many places in the Eastern US and to Italy. He was an active member of the Highland United Methodist Church. The love he gave his family and friends will always be remembered and cherished. He is survived by his sons, John E. (Debbie) Lloyd of Aberdeen, WA James H. (Mary) Lloyd of Highland, Thomas M. (Betty Jo) Lloyd of Denver, CO, six grandchildren, one great-grandchild and his beloved friend, Martha Schwaninger. A host of other close relatives and dear friends also mourn his passing. A Memorial Service will be held at Highland United Methodist Church, 590 W. Livingston Rd., Highland, May 4th, 2009, 10am pending. For further information contact Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com.

ROBERT M. MAIR
Age 76, of South Lyon, formerly of Hawes, Fenton, and Plymouth, passed away peacefully April 8, 2009. A service was held last Saturday at Casteline Funeral Home, Inc. Contributions to St. Andrew's Society or a Hospice of your choice.



A busy classroom inside the Novi Northville Montessori Center.

MONTESSORI

FROM PAGE A1
tional center brings a sense of intellectual and social needs. "We give children a lot of freedom, Rao said. "And we respect each child."

AN EDUCATOR'S BACKGROUND
When Rao's now adult children were young, she enrolled them in a Montessori Center. Rao said she liked it so much she took the training, beginning a career as a Montessori educator.

In Rao's building, children are reading, speaking French, computing math problems - including addition, subtraction and four-digit division. Peace education and conflict resolution is also stressed in the center's curriculum.

Rao also teaches her children to think, analyze and learn to be self-corrective. "They're not afraid of learning, not afraid of school," she said. Rao said she looks forward to many more years with the community. "We are grateful to the community to entrust us with their children," she said. "And we are grateful to all staff and all parents who have supported us."

Let's Dance!

Dear Savvy Senior, Spurred on by the television program "Dancing with the Stars," my husband and I are looking for some different resources to teach dancing. What can you tell us? Recently Retired

Dear Recently, It's amazing how "Dancing with the Stars" has lit a fire under the feet of millions of Americans - which is a good thing. Dancing is a great workout for your body and brain, not to mention a whole lot of fun. Here's what you should know and some resources to help you get started.

LOTS OF OPTIONS

Whether your groove is ballroom, square, swing, line, tap, clogging, jazz or even belly dancing is a great activity for helping older adults get

and stay in shape. There's even chair dancing for seniors with physical limitations. On average, a 150-pound adult can burn about 150 calories doing 30 minutes of moderate social dancing. And people who dance are more likely to stick with it than they are other types of exercises.

HEALTHY RESULTS

Like other moderate, low-impact activities, such as brisk walking, cycling or aerobics, dancing can help increase stamina and flexibility, improve balance and strengthen muscles. It can also help ward off illnesses like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, osteoporosis and depression, but that's not all. Research shows that social dancing can also boost brain power, sharpen memory skills and even reduce the risks of developing dementia. The mental benefits are attained because dancers must learn and remember steps and sequences, utilizing think-

LEARN TO DANCE

To find dance classes near you call your local dance studios, dance clubs, health clubs, universities or community recreation centers. Some YMCA's, senior centers, churches, or synagogues may offer group dance classes too. You can also search online at sites like www.accessdance.com, which offers a network of dance studios, instructors, camps and coaches nationwide that are ready to teach.

If you don't have any luck finding a dance studio or teacher in your area, lessons are also available on the Internet enabling you to learn in the comfort of your own home. Here are some good sites to try: • Learn2dance.com: Offers free video dance lessons, which teach dancers to ballroom dance, fox trot, salsa, and more.

SAVVY SENIOR

Dance2.com: Teaches ballroom dance, waltz, fox trot, and East Coast swing via a series of text-heavy pages. The site also sells a tutorial video and music CD for \$30.

YouTube.com: This site's massive video library includes free instructional clips in classical and contemporary dance moves. Just type in the kind of dance you're interested in learning in the search space at the top of the page, for a variety of demonstrative options. You also can learn to dance with the help of dance videos or DVDs (many options exist) that you can rent from your local library or video store, or purchase at www.collegevideo.com. Savvy Tips: Another dancing/exercise option is Dance Dance

Revolution (www.ddgame.com), a fun, interactive variety of video games that comes with a square, plastic dance pad that you place in front of your television. Players are challenged to match their dance steps with the flashing arrows on the screen while keeping up with the beat of the music. Some games require a gaming console like a Wii, Xbox or PlayStation to operate them, while others can be plugged right into the TV.

Or, if you like to travel, dancing vacation cruises can be a fun option too - see www.letsdancevacations.com. And as always, if you have a chronic health condition, be sure you consult with your doctor before you start. Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvysenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Your Invitation to Worship

Directory of churches including Brighton, Milford, Novi, Farmington Hills, Highland, New Hudson, Northville, Livonia, South Lyon, and Whitmore Lake. Each listing includes church name, address, phone, and service times.

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Senny Lee at 586-977-7651 or e-mail: sslee@dnp.com

# Novite or Novian: Harwell goes to bat for fitness

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK  
STAFF WRITER

Never at a loss for words, Ernie Harwell doesn't know what to call himself as a Novi resident. "I'm a Novite or Novian. Or maybe Novissime," Harwell said. "I talked to the Chamber of Commerce and they don't know what to call us, Novinskis?"

At age 91, the voice of the Detroit Tigers has become a spokesperson for healthy living. As baseball season gets under way, Harwell is working with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to promote walking as an easy path to fitness.

Harwell, who called Detroit Tigers games from "the corner of Michigan and Trumbull" 1960-2002, remains active in retirement.

He jumps rope 300 times a day, and starts each morning with a

15-minute routine of stretching, lunges and deep squats. Then, he works out in the gym at his retirement home in Novi.

"I think the only day I missed they were fixing something in the gym and it was closed," Harwell said during a recent interview at DP+Co, in Farmington Hills.

Harwell also walks. "All you need is a pair of shoes. You can do it anywhere," he said, recalling the days he and former Tigers manager Sparky Anderson would walk in cities across the country as they toured with the great American pastime.

"We would walk in the hotel parking lots, around and around and around for 30 minutes," he said. "We tried to walk downtown in places like New York but everyone recognized Sparky and needed autographs. That would disrupt our true purpose of walk-

ing."

These days Harwell is the celebrity, loved by generations of metro Detroiters who associate his voice with the sounds of summer.

On April 29, Harwell will greet fans as he participates in National Walk @ Lunch Day at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan headquarters in Detroit.

And he remains involved with baseball.

During the Tigers home opener April 10, Harwell hosted his annual breakfast at the Detroit Athletic Club to raise money for the Ernie Harwell Foundation, which began as an effort to save Tiger Stadium.

Harwell also took the field at Comerica Park to lead a tribute to former Tigers third baseman George Kell, who died last month.

Opening day remains a 'big



Ernie Harwell, longtime voice of Tigers baseball, is now an advocate for healthy living. At 91, he walks to stay fit.

thrill," he said.

"It's always a great occasion, always has been in Detroit," said Harwell, likening it to three holidays in one.

"It's like Easter because a lot

of people come just once a year, like church. It's like Fourth of July because you have all the fireworks and excitement. And it's like Christmas because you open your new present. Fans see what

players they're going to get in their package for the year, and of course everyone starts equal."

So, how does Harwell think the Tigers will fare this season?

"Hope springs eternal," he said.

# Guernsey helps food pantries

Dairy hosting tour April 25

Come see how Michigan made products are produced for yourself from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 when Guernsey Farms Dairy will open its doors to the public for a tour of its dairy products production plant.

The tour is free, and guests are asked to bring a non-perishable food item or make a monetary donation to the Novi Food Pantries.

"We are very excited to be able to help the Novi Food Pantries this year," said Guernsey's Rita Rice. "The need is great and we are happy to help. Guernsey Farms Dairy will deliver all the food donated after the tour and we will also match any monetary donations made to the Novi Food Pantries."

Bring the whole family for a tour of the 28,000 square foot milk, ice cream and other dairy products production facility. Each month 1.2 million pounds of milk (30,000 gallons) and 10,000 gallons of ice cream are produced.

"We often hear from our customers that they had no idea that we actually produce our milk and make our ice cream right here in Northville," Guernsey's Karen Kinville. "For 69 years we have been proud to be a Michigan company producing Michigan made products."

"This family friendly event will feature free samples of all Guernsey Farms Dairy products, from rich strawberry milk, creamy chip dip to an array award winning ice cream flavors. There will be music, entertainment, prizes and much more. Guernsey Farms Dairy founder John McGuire (who recently celebrated his 100th birthday) will be at this event to shake hands and greet guests, just as he has for the last 69 years.

Guernsey Farms Dairy has been a family owned and operated business, by the McGuire family, since 1940. Guernsey



JOHN HEDER/NOVI NEWS

Greg McGuire checks the status of some 2 percent milk that Guernsey Farms Dairy is bottling. Guernsey Farms will host an open house Saturday April 25.



Maria Lindo, along with sons Paul, 12, right, David, 14, and her nephew Billy Peralta, 9, far left, enjoy some Guernsey Farms Dairy ice cream at the Novi Road shop.

Farms Dairy offers a premium line of dairy products and often named as one of the metro Detroit's area favorite places to frequent for ice cream.

For directions or more information, please call Guernsey at (248) 349-1466 or visit the Web site at [www.guernseyfarms-dairy.com](http://www.guernseyfarms-dairy.com).

### CLASS NOTES

#### Oakland Schools Summer Programs

Are you looking for exciting, innovative, relevant, affordable learning opportunities for your children this summer? Oakland Schools Career Focused Education is offering 72 classes throughout the summer to students in grades 4-12 who are interested in exploring their interests in various career fields such as biotechnology, landscape design, employability skills, Microsoft Office, construction, basic home repair, welding, cosmetology, culinary arts, GIS, robotics, vehicle design, engineering, health and medical, emergency response training, auto body repair, auto technology, personal watercraft maintenance, digital animation, visual presentations and Web design. Academic classes will also be offered for Algebra, English, Math and Language Arts.

A complete list of courses and registration information is available on the Oakland Schools Web site at [www.oakland.k12.mi.us](http://www.oakland.k12.mi.us) and locate "2009 Career Focused Education (CFE) Summer Course Catalog" under Today @ Oakland Schools. Classes range in cost from \$25 to \$665 and are held in the four Oakland Schools Technical Campuses (Clarkston, Pontiac, Royal Oak and Westland). Class start dates vary from June 22 through the end of July on a first come, first served basis. The registration deadline is June 18, 2009. For program questions contact Paula Todd, Oakland Schools, Career Focused Education at (248) 209-2194 or Paula.Todd@oakland.k12.mi.us.

#### NHS Community Forum

A community forum is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, April 20 inside the Instructional Technology Center, 26345 Taft Road, behind the Educational Services Building, to provide information and gather input on the Six-Period Day Schedule and to answer questions regarding the proposed schedule. All stakeholders, including students, parents and staff are invited to attend.

#### NEF Green Gala

This year's Green Gala was a tremendous success, raising more than \$40,000 and having the highest attendance to date, organizers said. In other news, sadly Gary Latham, Novi Educational Foundation vice chairman lost his battle with cancer on April 4. Latham was instrumental in re-energizing the Foundation by bringing bright new ideas and moving the organization forward with his enthusiasm and endless energy.

#### Orchard Hills birthday

The Orchard Hills Elementary School community invites residents to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Orchard Hills from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 9. Event activities include: 1-2 p.m. tours of Orchard Hills, 2 p.m. celebratory program in gymnasium and 3-4 p.m. Sock Hop and refreshments. R.S.V.P. by calling (248) 449-1400 or by e-mailing [becky\\_hurst@nhurst.k12.mi.us](mailto:becky_hurst@nhurst.k12.mi.us).

## Nearly New Consignment Sale

A Premier Bi-Annual Children's Consignment

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, APRIL 25th, from 9:00 am-Noon

**WHERE:** Novi Christian Outreach Center at the First Baptist Church

**ADDRESS:** 45301 W. 11 Mile Road, Novi, MI (11 Mile & Taft Road)

**RSVP:** For more information and to register as a consignor, visit our website

[www.nearlynewconsignment.com](http://www.nearlynewconsignment.com)

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**APRIL 18 - 25 2009**

## MONEY SMART WEEK MICHIGAN

### The Truth About Long Term Care & How You Pay For It

According to AARP, 69% of persons over 65 will require some form of long term care. Most prefer to have in-home care rather than a nursing home. Without proper planning the cost of care could leave few alternatives to nursing home placement.

Learn how to avoid the 5 most costly mistakes in planning for long term care and how to maximize resources to assure the quality of life and care for you and your loved ones. Government benefit programs will also be discussed such as: Medicare, Medicaid and Veteran's benefits.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS		
Monday, April 20, 2009	Novi Public Library	2:00 - 4:00
Thursday, April 23, 2009	Commerce Library Commerce Library	2:00 - 4:00 6:30 - 8:30

This Money Smart event is sponsored by: J. Michael Hickox, J.D. and the Huron Valley Center for Estate, Elder Law & Special Needs Planning. Seating is limited. For more information and reservations contact Cinda Everhart at 248-685-8743

## BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

stated in a letter sent home to parents that the economy is affecting the school district.

In a preliminary budget presentation by Gail Credit, assistant superintendent for business and operations, the projection showed a continued decline in enrollment, no increase in per pupil state aid

and significant increases in expenses.

Based on the last two years' enrollment, and a projected enrollment decrease next year, Dion projects Novi Schools will see a decline of about 240 students and the state projects a deficiency of nearly \$330 million to the State Aid School Fund.

As a result of the financial outlook, Dion said he asked Novi High School administrators to look at a six-period day.

This would be a change from the six-block school currently operates on and a change from the recently proposed six alternating block schedule.

"Novi has had an outstanding educational program. I pledge to you to continue that commitment. We will get through these difficult times by working together," Dion said.

Life is complicated. We all have questions. At Ward Church, we won't ignore the issues of our day.

# I Have a friend WHO...

?

Join us for a teaching series addressing hot topics in and out of the church as we explore God's response when we say, "I have a friend who..."

- 4/19 ...Worries about the economy
- 4/26 ...Thinks all religions are the same
- 5/3 ...Struggles with homosexuality
- 5/10 ...Feels overwhelmed with stress
- 5/17 ...Thinks Christians are judgmental

You are welcome here. This series is the perfect chance to visit for the first time or check us out again. Childcare is provided. We'll see you soon!

APRIL 19 THROUGH MAY 17

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## open House

April 18th, 2009  
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## Hot Jobs: Patient care technician at Novi's Providence Park Hospital

BY PATRICIA ANSTETT  
FREEPRESS MEDICAL WRITER

While she waits to get into nursing school, Marissa Worthington enrolled in training as a patient care technician to gain health care experience. She took a 120-hour class to become a patient care technician at Oakland University's

School of Nursing, cosponsored by Warren-based St. John Health system. The training led to her getting hired in late March at St. John's Providence Park Hospital in Novi, where she cares mostly for cardiac patients in a specialty unit. Worthington said she considered the \$1,500 cost of the course a good investment in

her future. "I'm getting lots of good experience," she said. Patient care technicians, and related careers as patient care associates and medical assistants, are jobs in top demand today as more health systems and programs look for ways to relieve overworked registered nurses. PCTs, as they are called, can

perform CPR, assist patients with bathing, dressing and feeding; take vital signs; help patients with range-of-motion exercises to build strength, and perform other routine house-keeping and patient care tasks, including emptying bedpans. "It's a front-line caregiving job," said Mary Naber, senior vice president for work-life ser-

vices at St. John. The job is best for "people who want to give the hands-on care, bathing, moving people about, making sure needs are met and supporting the nurse in the care of the patients," Naber said. Naber and Carmen Johnson, who teaches the OU course, said that after a PCT gets hospital experience, some employ-

ers pay tuition for those who want to study related fields. They also may have student-loan forgiveness programs, as St. John does, that provide grants to pay off loan debts. Worthington has been accepted into OU's nursing program in January. Meantime, she has a paying job with full-time benefits.

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's **SPORTS** section



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Carly Raymo, 3, and her sister, Sydney, 7, get one of Kensington's new baby goats during a recent visit to the metropark's farm center.

## Meet Kensington's newest babies

BY ALLEEN WINGBLAD  
STAFF WRITER

Talk about sibling rivalry: After Carmel the goat gave birth to triplets April 7 at the Kensington Metropark farm center, twin sister Jorja became a mom herself less

than 24 hours later. Jorja welcomed her own set of twins, a male and female, on April 8. "Now we have five new cousins — and are they ever cute," said Carol Fink, farm interpreter. In fact, the babies are more than just cousins. Since they

share the same father, technically they're half-siblings. Fink explained that 2-year-old Carmel and Jorja spent some time at a breeder about five months ago. "They honeymooned for a couple weeks," she laughed. Folks are welcome to head

out to Kensington and visit the new goats — as well as the rest of the animals at the farm center, including Lawrence the calf, born two weeks ago. "Mothers and babies are doing great," Fink said. "Come out and see them — they're ready to be petted."

## Second annual Live Like Andi Run, Walk and Fun Run

Michigan resident and Olympic athlete Sheila Taormina will participate in the second annual Live Like Andi Run, Walk and Fun Run event May 2 at Detroit Catholic Central High School, 27225 Wixom Road, just south of Grand River Avenue in Novi.

The gold medal Olympic athlete became the first woman to ever qualify and compete in three different sports in three Olympic Games. Taormina will give a pep talk at the beginning of the event, which includes a Fashion Walk, Heroes' 10K run; 5K run; 5K walk; 10K run; and 1 mile Fun Run for kids. She will also provide words of encouragement throughout the day.

The event is in honor of Andrea (Andi) O'Connell, who died in July 2007 at the age of 40, ending a 21-year battle with Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma (ACC), a rare cancer typically originating in the salivary glands and often spreading to the brain and lungs.

Entry fees vary from \$15 for the Fashion Walk and Fun Run, to \$30 for the 5K and 10K events.

During the event Andi's husband Mike, and their three children, Tyler, 15, Gabrielle 12 and Olivia, 9, will walk and run and help sell cheetah color wristbands that say "Live Like Andi" to be worn with the same pride and courageous spirit that thousands wear Lance Armstrong wristbands.

The Fashion Walk is a special addition to the event as a memorial honoring Andi's love of style and high fashion. Ladies are encouraged to not only don their jazzed up running shoes and hats but to dress their best including cheetah print clothes and hair adorned by pink bows for the 5K Fashion Walk.

Registration for the 10 mile Heroes Run begins at 7 a.m., with the event at 8 a.m. Registration for the other events is at 8 a.m., beginning at 9 a.m. The 10 mile Heroes Run gives participants a chance to recognize their



Andrea (Andi) O'Connell with her husband, Mike.

personal hero. People are encouraged to prepare a board with their hero's picture and a short write up on why they are their hero.

In support of her friend, Andi's college roommate, Lt. Col. Wendy Mabry, Smith's husband Col. Phillip Smith will run with fellow troops in Baghdad, Iraq on the day of the Live Like Andi event. The run in Iraq will start simultaneously with the Heroes' Run in Novi at 8 a.m.

The fund-raising event is sponsored by the Live Like Andi Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed to raise money for research to discover a cure for ACC and to support families of individuals with ACC.

Last year, the event raised more than \$100,000 to aid in research and scholarships with 1,000 people participating either through running or

volunteering. Proceeds were used to set up scholarships in Andi's memory at Catholic Central Novi, South Lyon High, Novi High School and for her alma mater, Richmond High School in Richmond, Ind.

About 600 new cases of ACC occur in the United States each year. Because the cancer is rare, there is no funding for ACC research from the government.

National Cancer Institute or American Cancer Society. All funding to the Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation comes from private donations such as those individuals who are supporting the Live Like Andi event.

For more information about the event, to download registration forms, make a donation or to sign up to be a fund raiser visit [www.livelikeandi.org](http://www.livelikeandi.org).

## Seminars focus on elder care

BY PHILIP ALLEN  
COMMUNITY EDITOR

### COMING EVENTS

Attorney Michael Hickox promotes financial literacy. So does the Federal Reserve. So it was natural the two connected for Smart Money Week, a series of free classes and activities designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. Hickox, owner of Huron Valley Center for Estate, Elder Law & Special Needs Planning, said the week includes a variety of areas, including financial planners, estate planning, medical and more. He plans a series of seminars next week focusing on elder care and its ramifications.

"People need to learn what they can experience in the family and the financial side on how to pay for it," he said. According to the AARP, 60 percent of people older than the age of 65 will need some type of long-term care. "Families don't understand the real dynamics of what this means," Hickox

and what the financial burden is," said Hickox. He plans to bring several other experts to the sessions, including a geriatric care manager and a care provider. Any of the presenters can talk in detail about options for in-home care and what is available. Hickox added that care can be as simple as a weekly visit to play cards or as involved as 24-hour skilled nursing.

The seminars will be more of a conversation than a presentation, he said, with plenty of opportunities for people to ask questions. Space is limited, so registration for the seminars can be made by calling (248) 685-8743.

Money Smart Week is a Federal Reserve program, and 5/8 Bank Eastern Michigan is partnering in the program. For more information, visit [www.moneysmartweek.org/michigan](http://www.moneysmartweek.org/michigan) or call (877) 669-7678.

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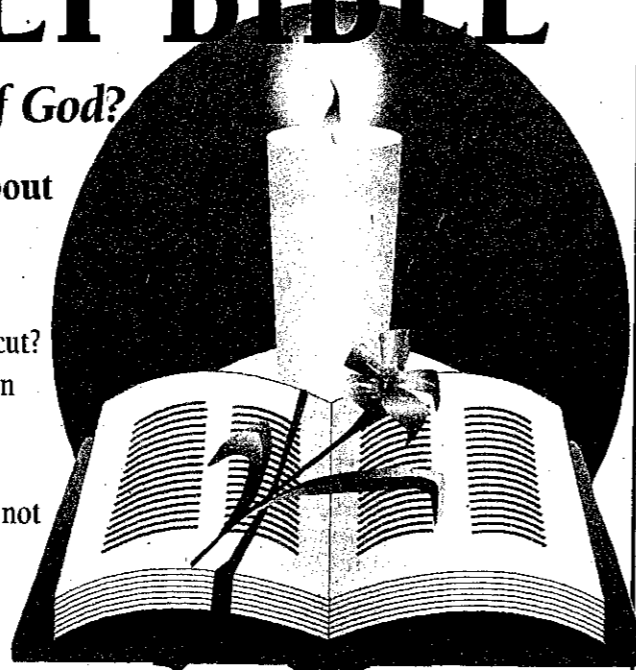
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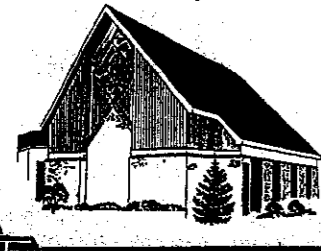
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- ▶ How do we know that our translation of the Bible is not based on a lot of guess work?
- ▶ What secrets do the Dead Sea Scrolls reveal?



Join us to learn more about the Bible, its faithfulness, and its reliability. There is no cost. Light refreshments will be available.



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# EDUCATION

## Fun ways to introduce math to your children

Is this a familiar scene? You are sitting at the kitchen table, helping your child with homework, and struggling to help him memorize math facts and formulas. Learning feels like a chore instead of a joy.

While 80 percent of traditional mathematics teaching relies on drilling and memorization, it can also be boring, frustrating and discouraging for many children. Parents can help to make math fun and approachable by linking it to real-world examples.

Memorization of math facts and formulas is an important part of math instruction. In order for children to really understand and apply even basic math facts, they must also discover them in the world around them.

Inspire a joy of learning math with your child by using fun games and activities to help them apply what they've learned. The following are some examples recommended by Sylvan Learning Center, the leading provider of supplemental education to students of all ages and skill levels:

- Play popular board games that require basic math skills. Checkers and Ladders® and Rack-O® develop number sense. "24" and Yahtzee® help computation speed and accuracy. Problem solving skills are developed through games like Triominos® and Connect

Four®.

- A deck of cards can be a valuable math tool. Card games begin to teach the concepts of probability. Using a deck of cards is also a great way to reinforce addition and subtraction memorization for children learning basic math facts.
- Relate math to your child's favorite sport. Ask her to calculate the number of points needed for her favorite team to win. Encourage her to create multiple point combinations to reach that score.
- Use driving time as math game time. Invite children to figure out how long it will take to get to your destination or estimate how much it will cost to fill up the gas tank.
- Dominoes are a great game for children of all ages. Smaller children can use them to organize similar quantities, while older children can explore the concepts of probability.

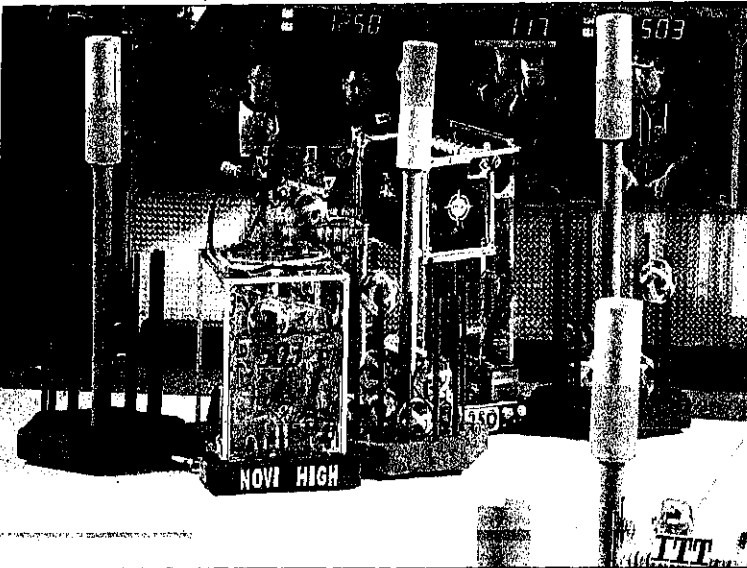
Sylvan Learning Center publishes a "Seven Days of Activities for Family Learning Fun," which provides other suggestions for enjoyable educational programs and activities for parents and children. For more information visit <http://tutoring.sylvanlearning.com/learning-activities/brochure.cfm> or call (800) 31-SUCCESS.

This article was provided by Kathy B. Michel, center director, Sylvan Learning of Novi.



### Success!

The Novi High School Frog Force Robotics team competed in the FIRST Michigan State Championship, making it to the semi-finals. The team also received the Xerox Creativity award and the Johnson and Johnson Gracious Professionalism award. Both the Frog Force team and team 315, the team Frog Force mentored, qualified to compete at the World Championships in Atlanta. The team is sponsored by Magna Inter.



Novi High School's Frog Force in action.

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**CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 09-138.02**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 87-18, AS AMENDED, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 11, OFFICE SERVICE DISTRICT, SECTION 1101 AND SECTION 1102, ARTICLE 12, OSC OFFICE SERVICE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, SECTION 1201 AND SECTION 1202, ARTICLE 13, B-3, GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, SECTION 1301 AND SECTION 1302, ARTICLE 14, L-1, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, SECTION 1401 AND SECTION 1402 AND ARTICLE 23, OS-2, PLANNED OFFICE SERVICE DISTRICT, SECTION 2301 AND SECTION 2302; IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR HEALTH AND FITNESS FACILITIES AS PRINCIPAL PERMITTED USES.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, April 6, 2009 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after its publication. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 46175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk  
Publish: April 16, 2009

**CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 09-138.02**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 09-138.02 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED, CHAPTER 34, "UTILITIES" ARTICLE 11, "Water Supply System," DIVISION 1, IN ORDER TO AMEND THE ALTERNATE DAY LAWN WATERING SECTION TO INCLUDE A REQUIREMENT TO OPERATE UNDERGROUND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS DURING NON-PRAK HOURS OF 11:00 PM AND 5:00 AM AND TO AMEND AMOUNT OF FINES FOR VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (a).

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, April 6, 2009 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 46175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk  
Publish: April 16, 2009

**The Novi Business & Taste Expo**

Wednesday April 29, 2009  
3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Hotel Baronette  
27790 Novi Rd

Clip this ad for \$1.00 off of the \$5.00 admission

Pre-register and attend the expo to be entered to win a \$250 Twelve Oaks gift card, [novichamber.com](http://novichamber.com).

Expo sponsored by: EverClean Restoration, Lotus Bank, Mercantile Bank, Northwood University, SERVPRO of Novi, The Old Maid Cleaning Services, Twelve Oaks Mall

Expo brought to you by:  
The Novi Chamber of Commerce and The City of Novi

# NEIGHBORS



### Speed racers!

Cub Scout Pack 375, sponsored by Providence Park Hospital, hosted its annual Pinewood Derby race on Saturday, March 28. Our state-of-the-art race track and enthusiastic 6- to 12-year-old scouts made for a fun and adventurous event. Scouts were required to take a mock written driver's exam and eye test prior to racing their derby cars. They then received their driver's license before they raced in their first heat. Real-life race-car sound effects from the computerized race track added to the excitement of the day. Photographs are front row, Tiger Cubs; second row, Wolf Cubs; and third row, Bear Cubs and Webelos.

## Dan Baker: Lions' mascot kept up a family tradition

BY JOE ROSSITER  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Following in his father's paw prints, Dan Baker helped continue William Baker's role as the Detroit Lions' official mascot when the latter died in 1960.

The elder Baker had been the team's mascot since its arrival in Detroit from Portsmouth, Ohio, in 1954.

After their father's death, Dan Baker and his brother, William, alternated the role of the mascot at all home games, which were then played at Tiger Stadium.

Dan assumed full-time duty when the team moved to the Pontiac Silverdome for the 1975 season, and his three young sons alternated accompanying him on the sidelines as the small Lion cub.

Mr. Baker died last Friday at the Manor of Novi after an extended battle with Alzheimer's. The longtime Novi resident was 69.

"He was the perfect guy for the job because he was fun-loving, upbeat and enjoyed people, said Anita Lawton, a longtime companion. "He especially loved mingling with the fans in the seats, talking to the kids and posing for pictures with them."

Born in Detroit, Mr. Baker graduated from Dearborn High School in 1957 and worked as an account manager with Alliance Shippers Inc., a local trucking firm. Dan Baker retired from the mascot job in 1995.

Survivors include sons Daniel, Brian and Kenneth. No survivors were held. His body was cremated.

Memorial donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 20300 Civic Center Drive, Suite 100, Southfield 48075.

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Plus **save 20%** on deck stains, cleaners and brushes

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Northville Newcomers and Neighbors members get together for a visit. From left: Claudia Snyder, Barb Dingwall, Kathy Lee, Carolyn Kugler, Sandy Saloun, and Paula Smith.

### Northville Newcomers & Neighbors set Spring Banquet

**BY PAM FLEMING**  
STAFF WRITER  
You don't have to be getting married to like weddings. Members of the Northville Newcomers & Neighbors want all area romantics at heart to attend "Dine by Design: The Wedding," the groups' Annual Spring Banquet, slated for 6 p.m. May 13 at Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth Township.

The event will include a fashion show of the latest spring and bridal fashions, a buffet dinner and surprise dessert served on a variety of creative "tablescapes," while guests listen to live music. The tablescapes will feature popular honeymoon themes and destinations.



Pam Fleming

### CHURCHES

**Sunday Worship**  
TIME: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Traditional 9:30 a.m. Contemporary, Nursery and Sunday School during the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

**Service Broadcast**  
DETAILS: 11 a.m. every Sunday on WDIV-TV Channel 32, HD at 32.2, at 32.2 HD. Single Point Ministries - 45 and older  
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. Sunday for fellowship and Bible study.

**WIN BRUNCH FOR TWO**  
Cost is \$30 per person for members and \$32 each for nonmembers. Those who have their checks made out to Northville Newcomers & Neighbors or NNN post-marked by April 25 will be entered into a drawing for a free brunch for two at Fox Hills Country Club.

### CHURCHES

**DETROIT FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
LOCATION: 21600 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road  
CONTACT: (248) 348-7600 or visit [dftcnazarene.org](http://dftcnazarene.org)

**ST. JAMES CATHOLIC**  
LOCATION: 46235 10 Mile Road, Novi  
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778  
Mass Schedule: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7 p.m. Tuesday, 5 p.m. (English), 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Saturday.

**FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN**  
LOCATION: 44400 N. 10 Mile Road  
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit [faithcommunity-novi.org](http://faithcommunity-novi.org)

### CHURCHES

**First Baptist Church of Northville**  
LOCATION: 217 N. Wino  
CONTACT: (248) 348-1020  
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays.  
Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month.

**Novi Public Library**  
LOCATION: 45265 W. 10 Mile Road  
HOURS: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720 or visit [novi.org](http://novi.org)

**Novi Senior Activities Center**  
LOCATION: Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road  
CONTACT: (248) 347-0414  
Message by appointment: 1-8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday.

### LOCAL EVENTS

**Professional Children's Theater Series**  
TIME/DATE: All shows 7:30 p.m. Circus Amoreus, Friday, April 24  
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Performing Arts Center  
DETAILS: Providence Park is sponsoring Novi Community Education in offering a Professional Children's Theater Series. Each show is \$5 per ticket. CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

**2009-10 Economic Forecast for Oakland County**  
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 23  
LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace in Novi  
DETAILS: Top economists from the University of Michigan will present their report on the economic future of Oakland County at the 24th Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon. CONTACT: (248) 330-6315 or [abwa-novi.org](http://abwa-novi.org)

**Guernsey Farms Dairy Open House**  
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 25  
LOCATION: Guernsey Farms Dairy  
DETAILS: Guernsey Farms Dairy will open its doors to the public for a tour of its dairy products production plant. CONTACT: Register online at [www.osv.gov.com/pecc/calendars/outlook](http://www.osv.gov.com/pecc/calendars/outlook)

**Swing Back Into Golf Season at Bolster's Golf Expo**  
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25  
LOCATION: Bolster's Center for Health Improvement located at 39750 Grand River Ave. in Novi  
DETAILS: The Bolster's Center for Health Improvement is launching this golf season with their third annual expo designed to make your first round of the season successful and pain-free.

**Shared Hope International**  
TIME/DATE: 4-9 p.m. Sunday, April 19  
LOCATION: Choi Kwang-Do Martial Art, 24404 Catherine Industrial Road, Suite 306, Novi  
DETAILS: This is an anti-trafficking awareness event. Nancy Wilson, National Awareness associate and member of the Board of Directors for Shared Hope International will be traveling from Virginia for these presentations.

**Novi Rotary Club**  
TIME/DATE: Noon every Thursday  
LOCATION: Novi Methodist Church  
DETAILS: Learn how to navigate this

### BULLETIN BOARD

**Association Business Women's Activities Meeting**  
TIME/DATE: 6:15 p.m. second Wednesday of every month  
LOCATION: Doubletree Hotel-Novi (4200 Crescent Blvd, southeast of I-96 & Novi Road, near Ball's)  
DETAILS: Local chapter provides many advantages to today's working women and offers a strong community service program that includes raising money for scholarships.

**Novi Public Library**  
LOCATION: 45265 W. 10 Mile Road  
HOURS: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720 or visit [novi.org](http://novi.org)

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**Parent information session**  
Tuesday, April 28, 9-10:30 a.m.  
Informational tours every half hour.

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<b>WESTLAND MILKING SALE</b> April 18, combining top Angus, Hereford, Jersey, Guernsey, Holstein, Friesian, and other breeds. 3:22PM Noon.	<b>DETROIT, WARREN, WESTLAND &amp; DEARBORN HTS.</b> Home Properties Available Call: 313-738-3688	<b>DETROIT/NORTHWEST 2 BDRM.</b> Immediate occupancy. Nice in-lot. \$150 per month. \$750 Sec. 734-742-3320	<b>HIGHLAND 3 bedroom.</b> 3 1/2 bath, 3 car garage, \$210,000 (248) 664-1713	<b>WESTLAND - New carpeting throughout, freshly painted 3 bdrms, 2 1/2 bath, CA, fridge, washer/dryer, dishwasher, central gas furnace, new storage shed. Large deck partially covered, 2 car parking. At Westland Meadows. Avail now, \$110,000. (734) 504-4534</b>	<b>ROYAL OAK - ON CANTARA</b> 7 bdrms 6 1/2 bath + gym & elec. Hardwood floors throughout. Move-in spec. 248-829-7007	<b>WESTLAND 2 bdrms. 3 1/2 bath, 2 car garage, \$110,000</b> Call: 313-738-3688	<b>WESTLAND 2 bdrms. 3 1/2 bath, 2 car garage, \$110,000</b> Call: 313-738-3688
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## Company announces staff cuts, end to Eccentric editions

Hometown, Observer & Eccentric and Mirror newspapers announced Monday changes that will eliminate several newspaper and Web editions and reduce staffing throughout the company.

O&E will cease publication of five Eccentric editions on May 31: Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Troy and Rochester.

In addition, the Southfield edition and O&E's Mirror Newspaper will become part of a new, multi-community Sunday newspaper, the South Oakland Eccentric, which will serve the southeast cor-

ner of Oakland County.

The closure will result in workforce reductions of approximately 44 people in all departments — advertising, editorial, circulation and production.

"These expense reductions are a direct effect of our challenging economy and changing media landscape," said Susan Rosiek, executive editor of the Observer & Eccentric/Mirror/Hometown Newspapers. "These decisions, as difficult as they are to execute and to accept, position the newspaper for the future — a future that

includes multiple platforms of news and advertising."

The newspaper company will continue to publish the Hometown Weekly Newspapers in western Oakland County and the Observer Newspapers in western Wayne County. The company also provides news and information on the Web at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

Rosiek met Monday with employees and representatives of employee unions to inform them of these decisions.

The newspapers are owned by Gannett Co. Inc.

## Shakespeare-inspired play closes season

Northville's Tipping Point Theatre will close its season with a zany, irreverent send-up of Shakespeare, "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield.

Directed by Tony Caselli, "The Complete Works ..." opens April 25 and runs through May 31.

Performances at the 361 E. Cady St. theatre are scheduled at 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; at 3 p.m. Saturdays (with the exception of April 25); and at 2 p.m. Sundays.

Ticket prices range from \$18-28. Preview performances, which include a post-show discussion with the director and cast, are at 8 p.m. on April 22, 23 and 24.

"The Complete Works ..." is a coproduction between Tipping Point and Williamston Theatres.

Tickets are available by calling the box office at (248)



347-0003. Box office hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday - Friday; noon to 5 p.m. Saturday; and 90 minutes prior to all performances.

With daredevil speed and precision, three actors bring the entire Shakespeare canon to the stage — all 37 plays in 97 minutes. Audience members should be prepared to laugh until everything hurts as three actors zoom forward, backward (literally) and upside down through some of the

greatest plays ever written in the English language.

"The Complete Works ..." ran for 10 years on London's West End and has been called "witty and wonderful" by Chicago Tribune critics.

Caselli, an accomplished director, makes his Tipping Point debut with this play. He serves as artistic director of the Williamston Theatre, where the production will take place in July. He has directed at Performance Network, Purple Rose Theatre, Michigan State University and numerous other Michigan theatres.

The cast includes Laurel Hufano of Ferndale, Aral Gribble of Pinckney and Kevin T. Young of Ferndale. Hufano previously starred on the Tipping Point stage in the popular farce "Don't Dress for Dinner," for which she received a Wilde Award nomination. Gribble and Young are newcomers to the Tipping Point.

For more information, go to [www.tippingpointtheatre.org](http://www.tippingpointtheatre.org).

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### MACY'S EARTH DAY

NOVI — In celebration of Earth Day, Macy's is helping to raise awareness and generate funds for parks and environment-friendly causes across the country with its Macy's Turn Over a New Leaf campaign. Throughout April, at all Macy's locations, customers can purchase tickets for One Good Turn. Macy's April 25 national charity day shopping event. For \$5, customers will receive a ticket for \$5 off a \$15 storewide purchase, as well as an all-day shopping pass for 20 percent off most merchandise. Macy's will donate 100 percent of ticket sale proceeds to the National Park Foundation and local participating nonprofit organizations that protect and conserve the environment. Macy's also is offering new reusable totes for \$1.95 with a \$1 donation to the National Park Foundation.

### SNOW GEAR SALE

BIRMINGHAM — Don Thomas Sporthaus, the Midwest's premier ski shop, is currently holding their annual end-of-season sale event. The sale concludes on Sunday, May 3. All items will be reduced a minimum of 40 percent

### MALLS & MAIN STREETS

from suggested retail prices.

Following the sale, Don Thomas Sporthaus employees will take summer vacation and return to reopen the shop in mid-August.

Snowboard prices have been marked down 40 percent; skis are reduced by 40 to 50 percent; and other gear and apparel are reduced 40 to 70 percent. Don Thomas Sporthaus offers a variety of equipment, fashion-forward apparel and accessories for the winter season, including sought after manufacturers such as K2, North Face, Obermeyer and Tecnica.

Don Thomas Sporthaus is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Call (248) 220-1999 or visit [www.donthomassporthaus.com](http://www.donthomassporthaus.com).

### SHOE SWAP

#### BLOOMFIELD HILLS

— Through April, donate a pair of gently used women's dress shoes and receive \$10 off a new pair of regularly priced shoes at Shoe Envy in Bloomfield Hills. All swapped shoes will be donated to several charities, including Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac. GCH rehabilitates women, help-

ing them get a second chance at life. [gracecentersofhope.org](http://gracecentersofhope.org) Shoe Envy is located at 6606 Telegraph (at Maple), Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 539-9260 or visit [www.shopshoenvy.com](http://www.shopshoenvy.com).

### EARTH DAY EXPO

#### ROCHESTER — Upland Hills

Ecological Awareness Center will present the fourth annual Earth Day Expo, Michigan's largest Earth Day event, in Downtown Rochester Saturday, April 18-19. The Expo, moving to Third and Water streets and expanding to two full days, is free and open to the public. It will offer more than 150 green and wellness exhibits, presentations and films, alternative vehicle and energy displays, organic food service, farmers' market and petting farm, kids corner, hands-on demonstrations, music and entertainment, prize drawings, free massage and wellness activities, sustainable project and green business tours, as well as a community-building Connections Cafe. A Welcome Reception will be held 7-9 p.m. April 18 at Mind, Body & Spirits restaurant. Visit [www.earthdayexpo.org](http://www.earthdayexpo.org) or e-mail [earthdayexpo@uhea.org](mailto:earthdayexpo@uhea.org).

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Our practice includes our dedicated board-certified physicians, medical staff, physical therapists, and psychologists. Our state-of-the-art facilities and equipment allow us to accurately locate the source of pain and deliver medications precisely — from epidural steroid injections to

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[www.cedarsofdexter.com](http://www.cedarsofdexter.com)

THURSDAY  
April 16  
2009

SECTION **B**  
(NN)

Jeff Theisen, editor, (248) 349-1100  
Ext. 228, jtheisen@hometownlife.com

# LOCAL SPORTS

online at hometownlife.com



Cats  
sweep  
Country  
Day - B2



Wildcat Chris Bellamy in action against John Glen.

JOHN HEIDER | NOVI NEWS

## Novi's Chris Bellamy leads strong All-Area basketball squad

BY JEFF THEISEN  
SPORTS WRITER

Novi head coach Cory Heitsch could pencil in guard Chris Bellamy for somewhere around 20 points a game. But that was far from it. Listed at 6-2, Bellamy also led the team in rebounding with 6.5, assists at 3.8 and steals at three a game, landing him the Player of the Year honors.

"Chris truly had an unbelievably season for us," said Heitsch. "He led us in scoring and rebounding from the lead guard spot. The efficiency and consistency he displayed throughout the year was outstanding."

Bellamy scored 20 or more points in 20 of 23 games with a high game of 37 points during a 71-56 win against Walled Lake Northern. Bellamy poured in 19 points in the fourth after the Wildcats trailed 51-47 early in the final quarter.

"It was a blast just to watch Chris just completely take over a game because it wouldn't just be on the offensive end of the floor," said Heitsch. "All the sudden he is deflecting everything, grabbing every board and just drilling shot after shot."

"It was a very comforting feeling for his teammates and for us coaches."

Heitsch explains Bellamy's ability to fill the stat sheet in so many categories and come up big when the games were on the line.

"Of all of Chris' strengths and there are many, nothing was more evident to me over the last two years than his basketball IQ. He truly understands the game," said Heitsch. "That is why you would see a majority of his playmaking happen in crucial points of the game. It wasn't coincidence, it was his understanding time and situation."

Bellamy signed with Spring Arbor University in early February to continue his



OLIVIS BARNES

Brett Smith helped drive the Shamrocks all the way to the elite 8 in Division 1.

basketball career.

"We will miss Chris sorely," said Heitsch.

### ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Several players on the All-Area First Team made strong arguments for being the Player of the Year.

Earning First-Team honors are Lakeland's Michael Fugate, South Lyon's Jordan Short, Milford's Nate Kesto and Catholic Central's Tim Dezelski and Brett Smith.

Please see **HOOPS, B3**

## CC's Darnell ices the field

BY JEFF THEISEN  
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central's Brent Darnell carries a good-sized 6-0, 180-pound frame onto the ice, but it's his game that really stands out.

Darnell finished runner-up for Mr. Hockey in Michigan after the Shamrocks blasted through the playoffs en route to a State title. He tallied 20 goals and had 25 assists in 30 games to earn the 2009 All-Area Player of the Year.

The junior was voted to the Dream Team (a team made up from the best from any division), All-State, All-Catholic, First Team All-MIHL and MIHL co-MVP.

"He was the fourth pick overall in the USHL draft, which is the top junior league," said CC head coach Todd Johnson. "He's a very skilled, multi-dimensional player. He's physical, he protects the puck, he's a great passer and he can shoot. He's got all the offensive skills you could want."

Darnell plans to play at Michigan State after his high school career ends.



JOHN HEIDER | NOVI NEWS

Novi's goalie Michael Pesendorfer makes a stab at a high shot during a game against South Lyon.

### ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

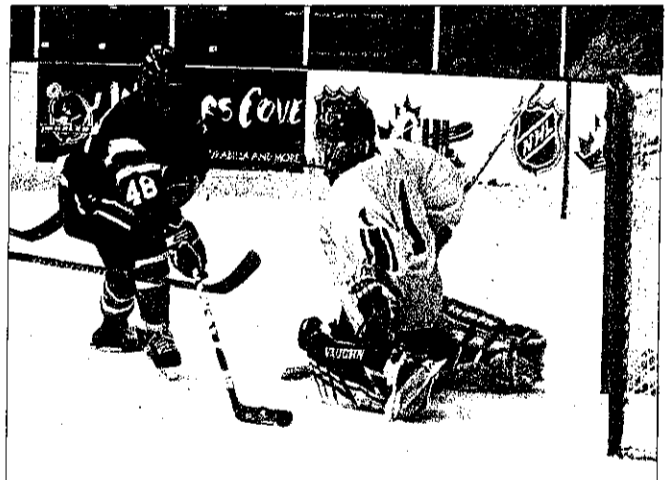
#### TONY THOMAS - CC SENIOR

Thomas is a hulking forward for high school hockey at 6-3 and right around 200 pounds.

But aside from being big, Thomas used skill and soft hands to tally 18 goals and 25 assists for the Division 1 State

champion Shamrocks. He earned All-State, First Team All-MIHL, All-Catholic and Academic All-State honors.

"We knew he was going to be an All-State type caliber player," said Johnson. "He's a big kid who has skill. He can play on the penalty kill and the power play."



OLIVIS BARNES

Brent Darnell puts in one of his 20 goals during the season. Darnell is the 2009 All-Area Player of the Year.

"Off the ice he's a great kid too. He's a captain, a 3.9 student, captain of the baseball team and he was our Hobey Baker champion."

#### MICHAEL SZUMA - CC SENIOR

Szuma helped anchor a defense that virtually shut their way out of the playoffs. The Shamrocks pulled off five

shutouts in six playoff games, including the 7-0 whitewash in the finals against Howell.

The 5-11, 180-pound senior was voted First Team All-State, All-Catholic, Second Team All-MIHL, Academic All-State and Academic All-Catholic.

"Michael is a shutdown defenseman," said Johnson.

"He skates so well, he's physical and he's got great defensive instincts."

"In the playoffs, we'd put Szuma against the other team's best player as often as possible, and we knew we were going to win that battle."

Please see **HOCKEY, B2**



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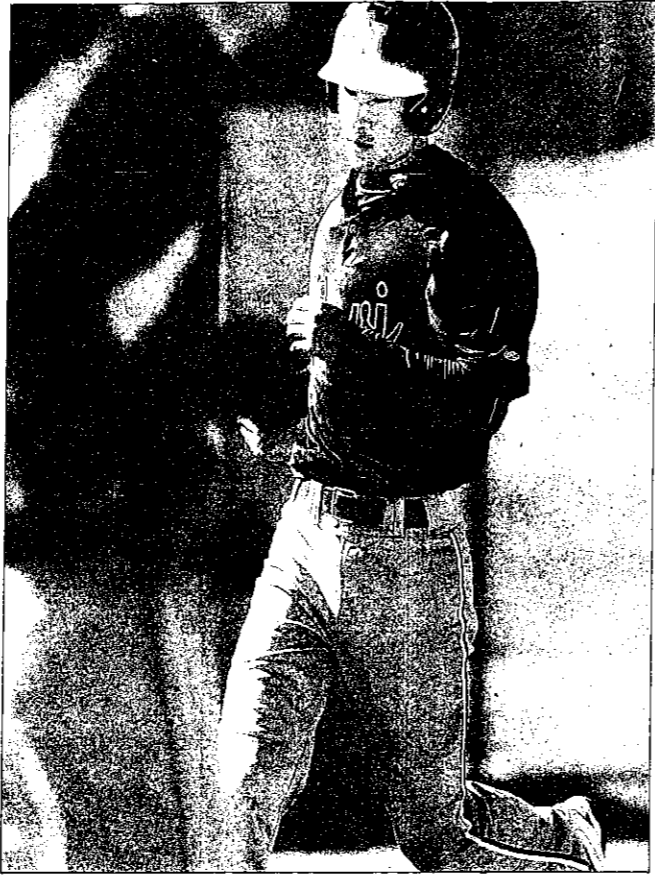
Expires April 30, 2009



# Novi lacrosse chills South Lyon, 12-5

STORY SUBMITTED  
The Novi fans were cold Monday night but the Wildcat lacrosse team was hot. Novi earned a 12-5 win against the South Lyon Lions to stay perfect at 5-0.

Jack Petroskey, Avery Kuna, and Vince Gasparotto led the defense while Kody Tipton and Dan Burris were in goal. The next matchup for the undefeated Novi Lacrosse team is 1 p.m. Saturday in Novi's Wildcat Stadium against the East Grand Rapids Pioneers. The Pioneers have been the Division II State Champions for the past two years and are also undefeated in regular season play.



Wildcat Masera Nogaomi scores a run for Novi at South Lyon East.

## HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1  
TREVOR LLOYD - LAKELAND SENIOR  
Lloyd was instant offense for the Eagles. He averaged more than two points a game with 20 goals and 34 assists in 24 games. He finished a remarkable plus-31 with only 16 penalty minutes.

First Team All-MIHL and had a large hand in the shutout streak through the playoffs. South Lyon's Chris Eckler proved to be a talented scorer on a team that stressed defense. The senior scored 22 goals and had 21 helpers in 26 games as the Lions rolled into the final four of Division 1 before losing to CC, the eventual champs.

MATT KREAGER, NORTHVILLE SENIOR  
Kreager anchored a defense that helped the Mustangs go undefeated in a potent KAAA Central Division that featured final four teams Novi (Division 2) and South Lyon (Division 1) as well as a potent Livonia Stevenson squad.

JAYSON CROK - LAKELAND SENIOR  
Cronk missed a couple of games due to injury, but still managed to rack up a staggering 47 points in 18 games (23 goals, 24 assists). He also finished the year plus-31.

MICHAEL PESENDORFER - NOVI SOPHOMORE  
Pendorfer was strong through out the year, but he played some of his best hockey during the playoffs. In 26 games played, Pendorfer (14-7-5) fin-

# Cats sweep Country Day

STORY SUBMITTED  
The Novi Wildcat baseball team racked up two more wins, sweeping Detroit Country Day, 7-6 and 9-6. The first game was a see-saw affair as the teams traded the lead. Novi got three more strong innings from starter Alex Karas, who struck out six while not allowing any runs.

After Michael Kruse walked, Green hit a double that put Kruse on third. A wild pitch plated Kruse and moved Green to third. A couple of intentional walks led to bases for Zak, who delivered a sacrifice fly to right that scored Green with the winning run. Green also got the win in relief. Novi's three hits and three runs scored. Nick Regnier slammed a bases clearing double to account for his three RBI in the game. Garrett Jewell also contribute two hits. Third baseman Kyle Slack and centerfielder Nagami both made fine defensive plays.

## Good Luck to the Novi Wildcats from these Area Businesses

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## HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1  
TIM DEZELSKI - CC SENIOR  
He's known as the Diesel and possesses an inside-outside game on offense and a shot-blocking presence on defense. The 6-6 senior was one of the biggest reasons the Shamrocks made a run to the final eight in the state, both figuratively and literally.

BRETT SMITH - CC SENIOR  
Smith was the perfect compliment to Dezelski. He could take the ball inside and nail the outside shot if left open. He racked up 648 points throughout the year and was voted All-League for the second straight season.

MICHAEL FUGATE - LAKELAND SENIOR  
Fugate was last year's All-Area Player of the Year and followed his junior season with a top-notch senior performance. He averaged 18 points, six rebounds and five assists and led the team to an 18-4 record.

ALL-AREA SECOND TEAM  
Several players on the All-Area Second Team would be first-team material any other year. It just proves the competition throughout the surrounding areas is very strong.

STEVE HARDING - CC SENIOR  
Harding was another three-year player at CC that helped turn the program from a basement dweller to an elite program. He scored 563 points on the year and will attend Hillsdale next year.

JORDAN SHORT - SOUTH LYON SENIOR  
Short set a set school record for assists in a season with 164, including four games of 10 or more assists. He also set the single-game steals record with 10 against Salem, averaged 7.9 points, 7.5 assists, 5.5 rebounds, and 4.0 steals a game.

JUSTIN HARTMAN - SOUTH LYON SENIOR  
Hartman was the second-leading scorer for the Lions with 8.4 a contest, tied for second in rebounding with 5.0 and led in charges taken and field goal percentage (49 percent). He also shot free throws at a 72 percent clip.

BRANDON BRYANT - NOVI SENIOR  
Bryant used speed and athleticism to average nine points, four rebounds and two steals a game. In an offense mostly dictated by Bellamy,

then there's times that he's needed to score. He's successful in all of those roles. "He's truly a team-first guy and a top-notch competitor."

NATE KESTO - MILFORD SENIOR  
Milford may not have put up the wins as the teams with other First-Team players, but it wasn't by lack of effort by Kesto. He averaged a double-double with 15.5 points and 10.5 rebounds a game, while shooting 45 percent from the field and 72 percent from the free-throw line (115-for-160).

ERIC WEDESKY - SOUTH LYON SENIOR  
Wedesky was the big man in the middle with the soft shot for the Lions. He led the team in scoring with 8.6 a game,

then there's times that he's needed to score. He's successful in all of those roles. "He's truly a team-first guy and a top-notch competitor."

Northville didn't have a ton to celebrate this year, but Groshek proves the future can be bright for the Mustangs. He averaged 12 points, 3.8 rebounds and 2.3 assists per contest.

HONORABLE MENTION  
Receiving All-Area Honorable Mention are Novi's Samer Ozeir, Jeremy Mims and Nick Brockman; South Lyon's AJ Thwaiter, Mike Fenner and Chance Bennett; South Lyon East's Colin Wedesky and Blake Jones; Northville's Tim Hesse and Scott Wagner; Milford's Chris Cunningham; and Lakeland's Matt Achelli.

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### SPORTS SHORTS

young men during their time at Catholic Central.

NOVI LADY WILDCAT BASKETBALL CAMP  
Novi varsity head coach Bill Kelp will run a basketball camp 8:30 a.m.-noon June 22-26 at the high school for girls entering grades 2-9. The camp will be split into grades 2-5 and 6-9.

CC'S MACH TO RECEIVE DUFFY DAUGHERTY AWARD  
Catholic Central football head coach Tom Mach will be honored with the Duffy Daugherty Lifetime Achievement Award on April 22 at Eagle Eye Golf Center in East Lansing.

## TEE TIME

Your local golf guide

### First time visitor to the Masters — one more check on the bucket list

By David Graham

As a lifelong fan and avid golfer, the dream has always been to visit the Masters tournament. When you enter your sixth decade, having a bucket list (as in what I want to do before I kick the bucket) seems pretty natural. Wednesday of the 2009 Masters Tournament, I was able to check off attending the Masters Tournament from my list.

Countless authors have documented the biggest surprise — television cannot do justice to the change in elevation from tee to green. Until you actually see it, you just cannot appreciate it. Better yet, walk all 18 holes as I did on Wednesday and truly experience it. Whoever claims that golf is not an athletic event requiring stamina should make that walk and understand. Up and down the hills of Georgia, these golfers are truly world-class athletes who must be in good shape.

Everywhere you look is perfect green grass that is perfectly trimmed with fairways better than some of the greens I have putted. And massive pine trees — I was challenged to find a pinecone or two to take home since the maintenance staff would not want anything to be out of place (I did find two, one for my book shelf and another for a friend's). The flowers were Azaleas of pink, purple, red and shades between with blooming Langer dogwoods to contrast. Truly some great eye candy! And one of the best is the Great Old Oak tree between the clubhouse and the first tee. Reported to have been planted in 1850, it is truly a majestic tree that embodies the dignity of

Winner of the 2009 Masters Tournament: Angel Cabrera

Our readers predictions from an online poll:  
Tiger Woods 62.5% Phil Mickelson 12.5% Padraig Harrington 12.5% Sergio Garcia 12.5%

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## A change of scenery

Brien's Services, Inc. offers affordable, reputable landscaping

BY JOHN R. HALL  
SPECIAL WRITER

In a tight economy, more homeowners are looking for a change of scenery close to home — and affordable landscaping is a great place to start.

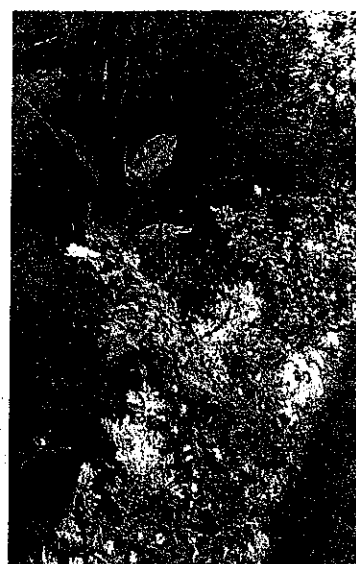
Sprucing up your yard with fresh flowers, plants, hardscapes and more is a great way to add value and beauty to your home.

And finding the right landscaper is easier than one might think — Brien Worrell, owner of Brien's Services, Inc. in Milford recently won the People's Choice 2009 Landscaper of the Year Award from the readers of the Milford Times.

The 28-year-old business has literally made a name for itself with its creative and meticulous seasonal care of lawns and flowers.

"We have the history, the experience and the hands-on knowledge to serve our customers," Brien said. "We also know that times are tough right now with the economy, and people are trimming their spending and looking for deals anywhere they can. Our services remain affordable and we'll help you find the beauty in what you already have."

Brien knows all about the beautification process, too, with his extensive history in landscaping design.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

From April through November, Brien Worrell and his staff focus on spring clean-ups, creative landscaping and irrigation design, professional bed maintenance and everything else that goes into making your landscape look good.

### Brien's Services, Inc.

4964 Technical Drive  
Milford, MI 48380  
248-685-7276  
www.briensservices.com

He started out cutting grass at the age of 12 and has never looked back.

An active member of the community, Brien also knows there are many other businesses in the area that are doing what they can to provide the best service in a down economy — and the best way to do that is by providing excellent customer service.

"We keep up on all of the latest technology for our customers,

from the appropriate chemicals to use on trees and plants to the latest floral and lawn trends," he said.

Knowledgeable about the West Oakland area climate, Brien remains aware of area environmental issues that can affect landscaping, including recent problems with the emerald ash borer and how it has drastically affected the planting of ash trees.

"There is concern for the wood wasp, which burrows into Austrian Pines," he said. "There are no known treatments for it, but we are always looking for as much information as possible, especially information coming out of the local universities."

Brien added that the wood wasps are not as serious of a threat as the emerald ash borer and there are currently no quarantines on Austrian Pines.

It is that type of thirst for knowledge that exemplifies the work of the staff of Brien's Services, among other reasons.

"Customers call us and talk to a person, not an answering machine,"

### Four seasons of outdoor beauty from Brien's Services, Inc.

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Yard maintenance, irrigation systems, pond development
- Fall**  
Planting bulbs, fall clean-up, pruning
- Winter/holiday**  
Outdoor holiday decor, snow removal, salting

Brien said. "We will return calls right away and can often put bids in the mail the same day if a customer needs it."

Most onsite visits can be scheduled within two days after a customer calls and are tailored to fit the customer's schedule. Brien said his customers have asked him

to build many outdoor structures including fireplaces, planters and paver-walkways, just to name a few. Tree planting is a big part of the landscape business, and Brien noted that maple and oak trees are still very popular.

The thoroughly trained landscape technicians at Brien's Service will identify what it takes to give a client a healthy, beautiful landscape, then ensure its beauty with a maintenance plan.

Some of the products and services available at Brien's Services include:

- Creative landscape design and maintenance
- Irrigation design and maintenance
- Bed preparation, planting and maintenance
- Lawn maintenance
- Outside holiday decorating
- Snow plowing

As far as his commitment to the community, Brien likes to sponsor sports teams, support Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, local charities and sponsor community events. He recently had a promotion on his business Web site that featured an Easter Egg raffle. Brien's Services is also an active member of the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce.

"We believe in investing back into our community," Brien added.

Call 248-685-7276 or visit www.briensservices.com.



Brien Worrell (right) stands with his father, Stan Worrell, in front of Brien's Services, Inc., a 28-year family owned business serving residents in the West Oakland communities and beyond.

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